

THE MICHIGAN FARM & GARDEN FOUNDATION, INC. AKA  
MICHIGAN DIVISION OF THE WOMAN'S NATIONAL FARM AND GARDEN  
ASSOCIATION, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
APRIL 22, 2019

LOCATION: Troy Historic Village, Troy, MI

Welcome

Present: Mary Schwark, Marcia Mandell, Lenore Treba, Pat Brown, Vicki Guntenaar, Sheila Kneeshaw, Charlotte Westbrook, Jo Sillanpaa, Susan Chambers, Cheryl Malin, Mary Lynne Moellering

Meeting called to order at 10:13AM. A quorum was determined.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

Approval of Minutes of 2/4/19 board meeting - A conference call will be set up within the week to approve these minutes.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Nominating Committee: We are still in need of a 1st and 2nd Vice President. No one seems to be willing to step up. Mary has asked that we all come up with a few people that might accept one of these positions and the nominating committee will contact.
2. National Meeting in Toronto - A brief discussion ensued regarding details for meeting.

#### OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mary Schwark, President

- Past visits to branches: none. Milford w/PowerPoint, TBD in September or Oct.
- Mary continued to voice her concerns about messages not being distributed by presidents to branch members. This is an ongoing problem that continues to be addressed.
- Mary will continue as editor of our newsletter as well as updated presidents' list including contact information.
- Conference call on 3/4/19 regarding proposed change to MI DIV bylaws (these will be voted on at the 5/22/19 meeting by membership.)
- D4D Trumpeter level joint donation by MI DIV board members - \$500.00 (included in Daffodil Day program)-designated for a second bench and plaque behind the Belle

Isle Conservatory. It was added to partial funding (approx. \$900.00) already available in D4D fund from 2018.

- Grand Marais Branch - Mary has still not received a letter showing disposition of their funds.
- The August workshop, "Special Event Organizing" will be held at the Bloomfield Library on August 19 if the venue is available for booking.
- Efforts to recruit capable leaders
- WNF&GA

Pat Brown, MI Division Treasurer

Pat reported that the report is not ready. She will forward report to board members as soon as it is finished.

Lenore Treba, Charitable Foundation Treasurer

Lenore presented Charitable Reports. Reports were accepted as presented. They will be placed on file.

Sheila Kneeshaw, 1st Vice President

- Spring Council 2019 will be hosted by the Warren Branch. It will be held at The Gazebo. Date: May 22, 2018. Guest speaker will be Ann Cline of the Iris Society.
- Sheila is still requesting Branch volunteers as well as a venue for the Fall Council 2019 meeting.
- The International Tea is back and will be held on Tuesday, August 13 at six different venues. Registration forms will be available soon.
- A visit to Grosse Pointe Park Garden Club is set for 4/8/19. Sheila will make a presentation on the MI DIV connection with 4-H and how it started.
- Sheila provided her 4-H report. She requested that the Endowment info be posted to our website to guarantee total transparency.

Marcia Mandell, 2nd Vice President

- Branch Recognition Program: This program will continue in 2019. There will be three recommendations for the Spring Council meeting. Marcia needs to get the names to Mary for the awards.
- There was no update from Joette Kunse for the Speaker's Bureau.

Cheryl Malin, MI DIV Registrar

Cheryl Malin provided her report on membership. The current membership number as of April 22, 2019 is 1253 members including seven members-at-large. There were 75 members removed since March 31, 2019 and 47 added.

National Delegates, Jo Sillanpaa and Charlotte Westbrook

No report. Toronto details are still in the works. Will there be a national trip musical interlude?

Marketing & Promotion of Michigan Division

This is what MI Division is doing for you. There was no discussion around this topic at this meeting. This is an ongoing initiative for all board members.

Daffodil Day comments - Charlotte Westbrook sent a letter on 3/14 to Robin Heller. There has been no response from Robin as of this meeting. If you have any further comments or feedback please get those to Lenore, Sheila, Mary, Pat or Susan for the next D4D meeting. It was determined that there is no remedy for our representation and acknowledgement at meetings.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 3. Incentives

There is an ongoing concern regarding the cost of producing and mailing paper copies of the newsletter. The Board continues to encourage members to receive newsletters online. These funds could become available for programming and/or scholarships, etc. See Cheryl Malin's report in these minutes. We are moving in the right direction.

### 4. Reciprocity

Reciprocity is an attempt to make connections between and among branches so that, if a branch needs staffing help for a special event, they could reach out to other branches. Continue to encourage branches who need help to solve membership staffing problems. Mary will address this in her president's column in the spring newsletter. Mary also volunteered to help at Franklin's Garden Walk. They will advise.

### 3. Organization Positions/Committees

Promotion & Growth chairperson - OPEN  
Website manager – Sally Edwards; Kathleen Krasity  
Newsletter editor – Mary Schwark (summer online-only edition. May 15  
deadline; published mid-late June)  
Advertising (marketing & promotion of MI DIV – all board members)  
Historian – OPEN  
Philanthropy chairperson – OPEN  
Member Education chairperson – OPEN (inactive 2015-2019; annual  
educational events held in August of 2016, 2017 and 2018)

4. Savings account - We need to make more on our money. A committee was formed to discuss options on making more for our money. This committee includes Lenore Treba, Pat Brown and Mary Schwark.

5. Strategic Planning - A committee was formed including Sheila Kneeshaw, Vicki Guntenaar, Mary Schwark, Marcia Mandell, Mary Lynne Moellering and Jo Sillanpaa. We will work to identify some meeting dates.

6. Branch daffodil projects- Continue to encourage branches to begin daffodil projects in their own communities and report them to MI DIV or report on their already-existing daffodil projects. Mary added daffodil icons to branches that have individual branch projects in the winter and spring newsletters. If there are any public plantings of daffodils in your cities, let her know. Ann Hause is managing a spreadsheet for this project.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Board meeting will be a conference call on April 29, 2019 at 9AM. The purpose of this call will be to approve the 2/4/19 BOD minutes.

Adjourned at 12:23 pm

Submitted by Vicki Guntenaar  
Interim Michigan Division Secretary

“The reports which were submitted by officers and other board members were edited only for the purpose of correct spelling, correct punctuation and/or clarification of meaning. There was no correction of substance.”